Accounts of Indian Missions Abroad

1467. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether lapses in the maintenance of accounts by Indian missions abroad have been found;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt strict measures to check any misuse of funds by the Indian missions abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). Accounts are prepared in our Missions abroad in accordance with laid down rules and regulations and every care is taken to ensure their compliance. These are regularly sent to the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs in the form of a cash account every month. Any discrepancy noticed is rectified in the accounts of the following months. These accounts are subject to the post-audit in the Office of Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of External Affairs, and are also audited by Statutory Audit.

[Translation]

Medical College

1468. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of medical colleges running without grants in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of students enrolled in these colleges particularly in Maharashtra; and

(c) the total number of students from outside the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Pak High Commission Official's Activity

1469. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Pakistan High Commission official was caught red-handed while indulging in activities incompatible with his official status, on September 29, 1996; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against him?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). On the night of 28-29th September, 1996 an official of Pakistan High Commission was apprehended red-handed in Delhi while accepting defence related documents. As he was indulging in activities incompatible with his official status. Government demanded that Pakistan withdraw the official from India by 2nd October, 1996. He left India on 2/10/96.

Support to India for Membership of UN Security Council

1470. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on way to the UN General Assembly and during his stay at UN headquaters, he sought to muster the support of different member countries for India's candidature for the election to the UN Security Council seat and for India's stand on expansion and democratisation of the Council; and

(b) if so, the details of such talks and the outcome thereof naming the countries offered to support India's candidature?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Over 70 bilateral meetings were held with leaders of other delegations during my visit to New York for the 51st session of the U.N. General Assembly. During the course of these meetings, India's candidature to the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council was projected, as were our views on the issue of expansion and democratisation of the Security Council. Other bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

While efforts were made and a number of indications of support were received, the election was conducted through secret ballot and voting intentions were not fully disclosed.

Acquisition of Naval Hardware by Pakistan

1471. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of Pakistan's recent acquisition of sophisticated naval hardware;

(b) if so, the counter measures taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to replace the obsolete Naval Force hardware;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the behest of the Prime Minister, a task force had been set up to pursue the acquisition of priority